

Mnemonic neglect in dementia

Submission date 08/01/2015	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 12/01/2015	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 09/02/2023	Condition category Nervous System Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

An area of research called "mnemonic neglect" has shown that when given information that in some way threatens our self-concept (our own view of ourselves), we tend to remember less of this information later on. If we are told exactly the same information, but asked to imagine that it applies to someone else called "Chris", then we tend to remember more about it. These findings suggest that the amount of information that we remember often depends on the extent to which this information, then we can help them to remember more about it. This study will look at how mnemonic neglect operates amongst people with dementia using research techniques which have already been used to study the phenomenon in people without dementia. If the findings are similar then we may be able to find better ways of talking to people with dementia about their illness.

Who can participate?

Patients with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease, Vascular Dementia or a mixed form of these from memory clinics from three sites in South West England

What does the study involve?

Participants are asked to carry out a number of memory tests to examine:

Study A - recall of neutral versus illness related words

Study B - recall of negative and positive behavioural statements

Study C - recall of statements related to dementia

Participants taking part in in studies B and C are randomly allocated to one of two groups. Those in group 1 are asked to imagine the statements as "applies to yourself". Those in group 2 are asked to imagine that the statement "applies to someone called Chris". Study A and B take roughly an hour to complete including consent and debrief. Study C takes around 50 minutes to complete including consent and debrief.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Advantages of taking part in the study include adding to scientific knowledge about dementia and how information about diagnosis is communicated. Disadvantages of taking part include memory tasks that may be upsetting or cause some participants to feel tired.

Where is the study run from?

University of the West of England, Bristol (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
December 2014 to October 2016

Who is funding the study?
Alzheimer's Society (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Miss Emily Dodd

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
17952

Study information

Scientific Title

Mnemonic neglect in people affected with mild Alzheimer's disease and dementia: replicating and extending findings from experimental social psychology

Study objectives

There are three studies within this project, each with their own question:

Study A - do people with dementia show a preferential recall of neutral rather than illness-related words? Study B - do people with dementia show mnemonic neglect?

Study C - is there a bias towards recall descriptions of dementia for the self, compared to descriptions of dementia relating to others?

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

NRES Committee South West – Frenchay, 18/12/2014, ref: 14/SW/1142

Study design

Both; Interventional and Observational; Design type: Not specified, Case-controlled study

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Topic: Dementias and neurodegeneration; Subtopic: Dementia; Disease: Dementia

Interventions

Participants have either been diagnosed with a form of dementia or are healthy volunteers (control group). Participants are asked to carry out a number of memory tests to examine:

Study A - recall of neutral versus illness related words

Study B - recall of negative and positive behavioural statements

Study C - recall of statements related to dementia

Study A is a simple memory test of words with no randomisation, everyone gets the same word list. Participants taking part in studies B and C are randomly allocated to one of two groups. Those in group 1 are asked to imagine the statements as "applies to yourself". Those in group 2 are asked to imagine that the statement "applies to someone called Chris". Study A and B take roughly an hour to complete including consent and debrief. Study C takes around 50 minutes to complete including consent and debrief.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

Current primary outcome measures as of 11/01/2017:

Study A: the mean number of dementia and non-dementia words recalled

Study B: the mean number of behaviour statements recalled (central or peripheral and positive or negative)

Study C: the mean number of high threat and low threat dementia statements recalled

There was only one timepoint to this study, the research appointment lasted up to an hour and the method was to simply count up the number of correct words/behaviours/statements recalled or recognised by each participant

Previous primary outcome measures:

Number of words, statements, descriptions recalled:

1. Straight after presentation
2. After a 2 minute delay

Key secondary outcome(s)

Current secondary outcome measures as of 11/01/2017:

All three studies: recognition scores and intrusion errors

There was only one timepoint to this study, the research appointment lasted up to an hour and method was to simply count up the number of correct words/behaviours/statements recalled or recognised by each participant

Previous secondary outcome measures:

Recognition of words, statements and descriptions after recall tasks:

1. Straight after presentation
2. After a 2 minute delay

Completion date

01/10/2016

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. A diagnosis made within the previous 18 months by a consultant psychiatrist of either probable Alzheimer's disease according to the NINCDS-ADRDA criteria (McKhann et al, 1984) or probable vascular dementia according to the NINDS--IREN criteria (Román et al, 1993) or a mixed form of these
2. Mild levels of cognitive impairment (e.g. MOCA score over 12 or equivalent score on an alternative assessment tool)
3. The capacity to consent to be part of the research
4. Sufficient communication skills to be able to take part in the research

Control group:

Healthy volunteers recruited from Join Dementia Research (JDR) register, students and staff at the University of the West of England

Participant type(s)

Mixed

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. They have a significant history of pre--morbid psychiatric problems
2. They have a diagnosis of dementia with Lewy Bodies (McKeith, 2002) or frontal--temporal dementia (Snowden, Neary and Mann (2002)
3. If deficits in short--term memory are not a primary cause of disability

Date of first enrolment

01/02/2015

Date of final enrolment

31/07/2016

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

University of the West of England, Bristol

Faculty of Health & Life Sciences

Glenside Campus

Blackberry Hill

Bristol

United Kingdom

BS16 1DD

Sponsor information**Organisation**

University of the West of England, Bristol

ROR

<https://ror.org/02nwg5t34>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

Alzheimer's Society

Alternative Name(s)

alzheimerssoc

Funding Body Type

Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype

Associations and societies (private and public)

Location

United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The current data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/08/2018		Yes	No
Results article		26/03/2019	09/02/2023	Yes	No
Basic results		15/11/2016	11/01/2017	No	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No